

*Mastacembelus longicauda.*

Depth of body 24 times in total length, length of head (without rostral appendage) 11 times. Vent much nearer end of snout than base of caudal fin. Length of head 4 times in its distance from vent and a little greater than its distance from first dorsal spine. Snout 4 times as long as eye, ending in a trifid appendage, which is not quite twice as long as eye; cleft of mouth extending to below anterior border of eye; no præorbital spine; two strong præopercular spines. Vertical fins united with the very short, broadly rounded caudal. Dorsal XXVII 150; last spine once and  $\frac{1}{2}$  diameter of eye. Anal II 150\*. Pectoral one fourth length of head. 14 series of scales between origin of soft dorsal and lateral line. Brown above, yellow beneath; a dorsal series of small dark brown spots; sides with lighter spots, some of which are ocellar; end of tail with large dark brown spots.

Total length 305 mm.

A single specimen from Akok, Kribi River.

Allied to *M. Greshoffi*, Blgr., from the Congo, but form more elongate, caudal fin more rounded, and no præorbital spine.

LXVII.—*Descriptions of Three new Fishes from Central Africa.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

*Petersius Woosnami.*

Depth of body equal to length of head, 4 times in total length. Head longer than deep, with convex upper profile; lower jaw projecting slightly beyond upper; diameter of eye equal to length of snout, 3 times in length of head; maxillary not extending to below anterior border of eye; 14 teeth ( $\frac{6}{8}$ ) in the upper jaw, 8 in the lower; outer præmaxillary teeth tricuspid, inner multicuspid and inserted directly behind the outer. Gill-rakers short, 12 on lower part of anterior arch. Dorsal III 8, originating above base of ventrals and at equal distance from end of snout and from root of caudal; longest ray about  $\frac{3}{4}$  length of head. Adipose fin very small. Anal III 17-18. Pectoral shorter than head, not reaching ventral.

\* The numbers of soft rays are approximative, the vertical fins of the unique specimen being rather stiff, rendering the counting of the rays very difficult.

Caudal peduncle as long as deep. Scales 29-30  $\frac{4\frac{1}{2}}{3\frac{1}{3}}$ , 2 between lateral line and ventral. No markings, except a silvery lateral band, which is black-edged above.

Total length 70 mm.

Two specimens from the Aruwimi, in the Congo Forest, form part of the collection made by Mr. R. B. Woosnam and presented to the British Museum by the Subscribers to the Ruwenzori Expedition Fund.

In its dentition this new species stands nearest to *P. occidentalis*, Gthr., in which the body is much shorter and the lateral line incomplete.

#### *Barbus Johnstonii.*

Depth of body equal to length of head, 4 times in total length. Snout rounded, a little longer than the eye, the diameter of which is  $4\frac{1}{3}$  times in length of head; interorbital width  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times in length of head; mouth inferior, its width 3 times in length of head; lower jaw with a blunt edge, covered by a thin horny sheath; lips feebly developed, lower confined to the sides; barbels two on each side, posterior slightly longer than the anterior and as long as the eye. Dorsal IV 9, last simple ray flexible, not enlarged, as long as head; free edge of fin deeply concave; its distance from centre of eye equals its distance from caudal fin. Anal III 5, longest ray  $\frac{2}{3}$  length of head. Pectoral slightly shorter than head, not reaching ventral; latter below middle of dorsal. Caudal peduncle once and  $\frac{3}{4}$  as long as deep. Scales 38  $\frac{6\frac{1}{2}}{5\frac{1}{3}}$ , 3 between lateral line and ventral, 14 round caudal peduncle. Silvery, darker on the back.

Total length 180 mm.

A single specimen from British Central Africa, between Kondowe and Karonga, was presented by Sir Harry Johnston in 1897.

*B. rhodesianus*, Blgr., which has a similar mouth (approaching the *Capoëia* type), is distinguished by its larger scales (30-32  $\frac{5\frac{1}{2}}{5\frac{1}{3}}$ ) and its shorter barbels.

#### *Amphilius Hageri.*

Depth of body  $5\frac{1}{2}$  times in total length, length of head  $3\frac{2}{3}$  times. Head slightly longer than broad; eyes small, in the middle of the length of the head, 3 diameters apart; interorbital width  $\frac{5}{8}$  length of snout; latter broadly rounded, projecting but slightly beyond lower jaw; posterior nostril

midway between eye and end of snout; præmaxillary teeth forming a short crescentic band; maxillary barbel once and  $\frac{1}{5}$  length of head; outer mandibular barbel  $\frac{2}{3}$  length of head, inner  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Dorsal I 6, well in front of vertical of ventrals, but nearer latter than base of pectorals, equally distant from end of snout and from middle of adipose fin; first branched ray  $\frac{2}{3}$  length of head. Adipose fin low, 5 times as long as deep, twice as long as rayed dorsal. Anal II 7, a little nearer root of caudal than base of ventral. Pectoral longer than ventral, a little shorter than head. Caudal feebly emarginate. Caudal peduncle as long as deep. Dark olive above, whitish beneath; five round whitish spots on the back—one in front of the dorsal fin, one on each side of the last rays of the dorsal, one in front of the adipose fin, and one on the posterior extremity of the latter.

Total length 60 mm.

A single specimen from Mlanji, British Central Africa, presented by Mr. R. L. Harger.

Closely allied to *A. platycheir*, Gthr., which occurs also in British Central Africa, but body shorter and barbels longer.

LXVIII.—*Description of a new African Snake of the Genus Simocephalus.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

*Simocephalus Butleri.*

Eye moderately large. Rostral once and a half as broad as deep, the portion visible from above measuring one third its distance from the frontal; internasals once and a half as broad as long, half the length of the præfrontals, which are nearly as long as the frontal; frontal slightly longer than broad, as long as its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals; loreal deeper than long; one præ- and three postoculars; the lower of the latter may be regarded as a subocular; temporals 1 + 2, the first narrowly separating, in front, the parietal from the fifth labial; seven upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye; five lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are longer than the posterior. Scales in 15 rows, strongly keeled, with secondary tubercular keels. Ventrals 232; anal entire; subcaudals 58. Black above, each scale with a whitish basal spot, white beneath; ventrals edged with black on the sides; lower surface of tail greyish.

Total length 400 mm.; tail 55.